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REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN AND SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 1, 1872.

BRATTLEBORO :

F. D. COBLEIGH, STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
1872.

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REPORT.

Of the Selectmen of Chesterfield.

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Receipts on Account of

Town tax, 1868,	\$ 2 24	
Town tax, 1869,	36 01	
Town tax, 1870.	772 73	
Interest on taxes, 1870,	43 24	—854 22
Assessments for the year 1871,		8,350 30
Errors in Town Treasurer's acct', 1870,		271 03
Loans for use of Town,		2,300 00
County pauper claims,		177 00
For use of Town Hall,		27 00
For one string of Gold Beads,		5 00
Nathan Hildreth fund,		1 59
Bank interest,		9 00
Savings Bank tax,		481 25
Railroad tax,		18 85
Literary fund,		96 00
Town of Hinsdale one half of Council fees and board,		20 00
Town of Hinsdale for one half expense of running Town line,		1 50
		<hr/>
		\$12,612 74

PAYMENTS.

ON ACCOUNT OF TOWN DEBTS.

Town notes,	\$3,613 79
Town bonds,	220 00
Interest on Town bonds,	158 40—3,992 19

TOWN PAUPERS.

For Humphrey G. Albee,	52 00	
Mrs. Wetherbee,	165 50	
Russell Farr,	83 24	
John Black,	92 00	—392 74

COUNTY PAUPERS.

For Charles Smith,	130 00	
Ame Draper,	55 24	
Transient persons,	2 25	—187 49

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

For bridge plank and timber,	156 47	
Labor,	180 17	—336 64

TOWN OFFICERS.

For services of Selectmen,	160 00	
“ “ “ Collector of taxes,	50 00	
“ “ “ S. School Committee,	40 00	
“ “ “ Town Treasurer,	25 00	
“ “ “ Town Clerk,	35 75	
“ “ “ Moderator,	2 00	—312 75

TOWN HOUSE.

For ringing bell and care of house,	17 37	
Oil and repairs,	3 67	
One stove and pipe for hall,	14 20	—35 24

SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

No. 1,	\$168 51	
“ 2,	116 10	
“ 3,	81 98	
“ 4,	90 05	
“ 5,	148 87	
“ 6,	84 97	
“ 7,	96 07	
“ 8,	86 59	
“ 9,	92 83	
“ 10,	125 43	
“ 11,	74 61	
“ 12,	77 53	
“ 13,	174 10	
“ 14,	69 86	
“ 15,	64 50	—1,552 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

For Stationery,	6 25	
Record of births and deaths,	10 25	
Services of Agent with hearse,	27 00	
Damage done by dogs,	21 00	
County tax,	1,433 56	
State tax,	2,496 00	
Non-resident highway receipts,	33 94	
Overtax,	4 68	

Discount on taxes paid prior to Oct. 6,	351	48
Expenses on pauper business and team work,	45	00
Expense of trial with Brokers,	218	17
Interest on temporary loan,	6	50
Expenses on mountain road,	85	96
Expense of proving bounty claim,	16	50
Balance of school house tax Dis't No. 9,	28	30
Expenses of running town lines,	31	25
Expense on Broker case in 1870,	7	45
Over charge on Town Reports 1870,	3	00
Eli Taft, damage crossing land, 1870,	5	00
" " " " " 1871,	3	00
Abatement of taxes,	9	95
Due on tax bill, 1871,	959	45-12,612 74

State of the Treasury, March 1, 1872.

LIABILITIES.

Town notes payable,	\$14,184	35
Town bonds,	2,474	45
Dog tax money,	172	25-16,831 05

ASSETS.

Tax Bill, 1867,	5	97
" " 1869,	50	10
" " 1870,	21	53
" " 1871,	959	45-1,037 05

Town indebtedness,	15,794	00
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Estimated Expenses for 1872.

State tax,	\$1,248	00
County tax,	1,142	37
Schools,	1,628	25
Town charges,	1,200	00
Interest on debt,	1,009	86
Town Bond,	220	00
	6,448	48

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE GOODRICH,
JAMES H. GOODRICH,
MURRY DAVIS,

} *Selectmen
of
Chesterfield.*

REPORT OF SCHOOLS

Parents and Guardians:

I have attended to the duty assigned me by the Selectmen to take the oversight of your schools. I have performed this service with pleasure to myself, and I trust, with benefit to the children. Our schools have chiefly smiled in prosperity and rejoiced in their privileges.

I proceed to report each school in order.

DISTRICT No. 1. This district gave the board and prolonged their first term to 19 weeks. This school was well organized under a reputed teacher; it promised well, and as the Agent allows, closed well,—I knew it not in time to make a closing visit.

Second term, in charge of an experienced teacher, who so instructed his pupils in studies and morals, that a *few* of them learned a new thing;—that “*going to school*” means *work* in the school room, and *proprieties* out of the school room. And verily none but dull scholars will enjoy a dull memory! A successful term.

No. 2. A young teacher for a half dozen small ones. The examination showed that she had been faithful and useful to her charge.

Second term. A teacher with a “natural gift.” Prompt and accurate recitations, and pleasing progress.

No. 3. The close of this school showed fidelity on the part of both teacher and pupils. None tardy.

Second term. The fellowship of teacher and pupils was so good, that four weeks were added to the first engagement. A useful school.

No. 4. A teacher of experience. Marked progress in study at the close. None tardy.

Second term. A teacher faithful in her work. The school closed with marks of good progress in study. Yet, perhaps, the *check rein* had been a little too loose for the spirit of the team.

No. 5. A faithful and experienced teacher. The improvement of pupils truly commendable.

Second term. A teacher who had the “natural gift” of teaching. A brief report is—skillful, thorough, successful. Great improvement in reading.

No. 6. A young teacher—small scholars, for summer term. The examination showed good order and progress.

Second term. Adaptation and interest marked this school at the close.

No. 7. This school on my first visit appeared well organized, with a competent teacher. After six weeks, it closed without my knowledge and 2d visit.

Second term. A teacher of some experience, who aimed to be faithful. Some of the classes at the close, showed they had been well instructed. But plainly, the *check rein* here was

too loose for the good of those who overreached. The state of this school needs for their next winter term, an experienced and skillful teacher, who wears a *coat, pants and boots*.

No. 8. A young teacher who aimed to do her best. She was useful to the school; but with more energy, would have doubled her usefulness. Singing in the school was an excellence.

Second term. Well governed and well instructed; hence a cheering improvement in the several branches of the school room.

No. 9. A teacher of long and tried experience at the head of this school for the summer term. It began in hope and closed in prosperity.

Second term. A live school, and marked improvement in reading and recitation.

No. 10. A teacher of long and tried experience for this school also. There was painstaking. Reading and recitation at the close, much better than on the first visit.

Second term. A beginner in the art of teaching, for the winter. But one who seemed to make his best endeavor to be useful to his pupils, and he was useful.

No. 11. An experienced teacher who labored faithfully and successfully for this school. Progress was manifest. To all was added the favor of singing.

Second term. A pleasant little school this term also; who did honor to themselves and teacher, at the close.

No. 12. A young teacher, who, after the favorable experiment of one term, was employed to teach the same school a second term.

No. 13. This school was favored with a teacher of long and tried experience. The term began in all hopeful prospects and no doubt closed successfully. But I was not seasonably informed of the close, and no second visit.

Second term of the senior department was in charge of the same teacher. But as the Register has not been returned, as the law requires, I have nothing to specify of this term's doings. However, there may have been some improvement upon the corresponding term of the preceding year.

Primary department. A manifest skill and fidelity in the teacher of these little folks. They seemed happy in showing how well they could read, and how well they could recite their lessons.

No. 14. A young teacher, with talent and tact for her work. Her pupils showed a gratifying progress at the close.

Second term. Same teacher, who began in good hope; and is well reported of by the district and Register. But your committee was not informed of the time of close.

No. 15. A young teacher was employed for the summer term, who began hopefully. I can make no statement of the

success and character of the school, as I was not informed of its close,—hence no second visit for examination.

Second term. This school did credit to themselves and teacher at the examination. Those that tried to learn did learn.

No. of District.	S. W.—Summer & Winter Term.	NAME OF TEACHERS.	No. of Scholars Summer & Winter.	No. of District.	S. W.—Summer & Winter Term.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.	No. of Scholars Summer & Winter.
1	S	C. Wellington,	23	9	S	A. Marsh,	18
1	W	G. F. Burnham,	35	9	W	K. Thomas,	23
2	S	M. Colburn,	6	10	S	E. Wheeler,	8
2	W	C. Woolley,	11	10	W	I. Snow,	12
3	S	C. Hubbard,	14	11	S	A. Peirce,	6
3	W	A. Hopkins,	18	11	W	B. Wheeler,	8
4	S	K. Thomas,	8	12	S	L. Randall,	7
4	W	L. Randall,	11	12	W	L. Randall,	8
5	S	E. Darling,	15	13	S	A. Pierce,	43
5	W	W. Covey,	20	13	W	A. Pierce,	27
	S	A. Amidon,	10	14	S	R. Reed,	10
	W	K. Thomas,	13	14	W	R. Reed,	12
	S	E. M. Russell,	18	15	S	S. Hines,	8
7	W	C. Wellington,	19	15	W	E. J. Henry,	10
8	S	L. Green,	8	13	W	L. Hamilton,	16
8	W	W. Covey,	18			Total.	261

A WORD TO DISTRICT AGENTS.

The slackness^{of} some teachers in returning their Register, is a trouble to the Supt. Committee. There is a remedy, my friends, given into your hands.—In Chap. 5, Sec. 18, digest of school laws, *digest law* says: “Every teacher at the close of his term of school, shall return his or her Register to the School Committee of the town; and no teacher shall receive payment for his services till this is done.”

AN EVIL IN OUR SCHOOLS.

One reigning evil to our schools in this town, and through all our country is the *multiplied grades* of text books. We have offered us—yes, *forced* upon us 5 *grades of Readers*, 5 *grades of Geographies*, 5 *grades of Arithmetics*, and an intermediate. Our schools are often imposed upon by the courting and empty advertisements of these diversified books. In the short time allowed most of the scholars in our public schools, it is all out of the question, to go through all these *grades* provided for them. To attempt it is to make a *superficial dabbling* with many things, and obtain no compact and useful knowledge of any thing.

A *big folly!* got up by the cupidity and speculation of book makers and publishers. Ye school committees and wise men, pity the scholars that are puzzled with so many mixtures and “*intermediates*,” and diminish the quantity and increase the power.

Respectfully submitted by your Supt. School Committee.

J. HALL.



